

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1) A motorized chalk line apparatus comprising:

a) a housing including an aperture having a portion of said chalk line extending therefrom;

b) a spool compartment within said housing further comprising:

i) a first stub axle extending inward from a first side of said spool compartment; and

ii) a second stub axle extending inward from a second side of said spool compartment;

c) a chalk reservoir in proximity to said spool compartment communicating with said housing's aperture having said chalk line extending therefrom, wherein said chalk reservoir further comprises:

i) a first opening through which chalk is added to said chalk reservoir; and

ii) a second opening communicating with said spool compartment;

d) a spool comprising:

i) a hollow for engaging said first stub axle and said second stub axle; and

ii) a driven gear;

e) a winding of said chalk line about said spool, wherein at least a portion of said chalk line extends through said second opening and said housing's aperture;

f) a drive for engaging said driven gear, wherein said drive rotates said spool to wind said chalk line about said spool;

- 1 g) an electrical motor communicating with said housing and said drive;
2 h) a battery communicating with said housing and linked to said electrical
3 motor;
4 i) a switch communicating with said housing for activating said electrical
5 motor; and
6 j) a stop at the outward most portion of said chalk line.
- 7 2) The invention of claim 1 wherein said chalk reservoir further comprises a slide
8 positioned about said first opening.
- 9 3) The invention of claim 2 wherein said stop further comprises an anchor.
- 10 4) The invention of claim 3 wherein said drive further comprises a drive gear for
11 engaging said driven gear.
- 12 5) The invention of claim 4 wherein said switch is a contact switch.
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- 1 6) A method of automatically reeling in a chalk line, comprising the steps of:
- 2 a) attaching said chalk line to a spool;
- 3 b) coupling a first side of said spool with a first stub axle, said first stub
- 4 axle being contained within a spool compartment;
- 5 c) coupling a second side of said spool with a second stub axle, said second
- 6 stub axle being contained within said spool compartment and positioned opposite said first stub
- 7 axle;
- 8 d) providing an outward opening in said spool compartment through which
- 9 said chalk line travels;
- 10 e) gearing said spool to engage a drive;
- 11 f) positioning a chalk reservoir proximate said outward opening of said
- 12 spool compartment;
- 13 g) enclosing said spool compartment and said chalk reservoir in a housing,
- 14 said housing further comprising:
- 15 i) an exit opening through which said chalk line passes;
- 16 ii) an aperture for filling said chalk reservoir; and
- 17 iii) a switch for activating said drive;
- 18 h) linking said switch to said drive;
- 19 i) supplying chalk to said chalk reservoir;
- 20 j) pulling said chalk line through said exit opening for a distance;
- 21 k) engaging said switch; and
- 22 l) battery-powering said drive to reel in said chalk line for as long as said
- 23 switch is engaged.

1 7) The method of claim 6 further comprising the step 6 of manually agitating said
2 chalk line, after said chalk line has been pulled through said exit opening for said distance and
3 prior to engaging said switch.

4 8) The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of recharging said battery.

5

- 1 9) A motorized chalk line apparatus comprising:
- 2 a) a housing including an aperture having a portion of said chalk line
- 3 extending therefrom;
- 4 b) a spool compartment contained within said housing further comprising:
- 5 i) a first stub axle extending inward from a first side of said spool
- 6 compartment; and
- 7 ii) a second stub axle extending inward from a second side of said
- 8 spool compartment and opposite said first stub axle;
- 9 c) a chalk reservoir joining said spool compartment and communicating
- 10 with said housing's aperture having said chalk line extending therefrom, wherein said chalk
- 11 reservoir further comprises:
- 12 i) a first opening through which chalk is added to said chalk
- 13 reservoir; and
- 14 ii) a common opening with said spool compartment;
- 15 d) a spool comprising:
- 16 i) a hollow for engaging said first stub axle and said second stub
- 17 axle; and
- 18 ii) a driven gear;
- 19 e) a winding of said chalk line about said spool, wherein at least a portion
- 20 of said chalk line extends through said common opening and said housing's aperture;
- 21 f) a drive for engaging said driven gear:
- 22 i) for rotating said spool to wind said chalk line about said spool,
- 23 when said drive is energized; or

1 ii) for allowing said chalk line to be pulled out of said housing's
2 aperture, when said drive is deenergized;

3 g) an electrical motor communicating with said housing and said drive;

4 h) a battery communicating with said housing and linked to said electrical
5 motor;

6 i) a switch communicating with said housing for actuating said electrical
7 motor;

8 j) a stop at the outward most portion of said chalk line; and

9 k) a recharging circuit communicating with said housing and linked to said
10 battery for recharging said battery.

11 10) The invention of claim 9 wherein said stop further comprises an anchor.

12 11) The invention of claim 10 wherein said chalk reservoir further comprises a slide
13 positioned about said first opening.

14 12) The invention of claim 11 wherein said drive further comprises a drive gear for
15 engaging said driven gear.

16 13) The invention of claim 12 wherein said switch is a contact switch.

17 14) The invention of claim 13 further comprising a recharging base unit for said
18 motorized chalk line apparatus.

19 15) The invention of claim 14 wherein said recharging base unit further comprises a
20 junction fitted to reciprocate with a pair of exposed contacts of said recharging circuit.

21